

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ATTACHMENT TO PLACES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMAGES OF "SELF AND HOME"
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ARCHITECTS DESIGNED
HOUSES**

A Dissertation

**Submitted to the Department of Architecture of the
University of Moratuwa in partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the degree of Master of Science**



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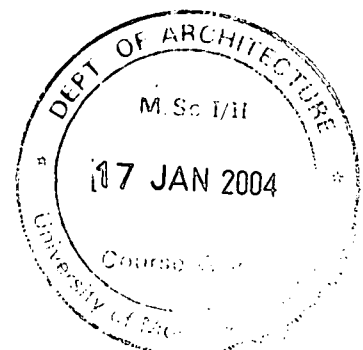
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DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this University or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

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ABSTRACT

Architecture is mother of all Arts. There is more close relationship in between day today life and architecture. People are living, dining and all over entire life activities in birth and dead functioning within built environment. Therefore architecture has great contribution on human behaviour as it is "All about relationships; Socio spatial relationships" (Habraken, 1983).

The primary place where this relationship basically happens in a house, house is an architectural place where family is happening. That family gives meaning to that house as a home. And there will be a deep rooted relationship of person who belongs to that home, the relationship of self and home.

In order to provide 'Home' for people, one has to understood what constitutes a 'Home' and the essential difference between "House" and 'Home', in doing so it was observed that the creation of home environments with reference to psychological, social and cultural variables enabled the formulation of key attributes, which together help in the creation of whole.

As a result of these relationships people, according to there individual self, strong relationship manifested as attachment to place, it is not only to his or her home, but for day to day places, nature etc...



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"Environmental Images" are such deep rooted ingredient of attachment to places which goes under an untouchable, a non existing concept of place. Therefore Environmental memories or supposed environmental image play a major role in architecture and its related fields.

Therefore it is a most need thing, as an Architects to understand how this deep rooted relationship plays when making home for different kind of people and how to crystallize their image of dream, while shape up with Architects involvement in home making process.



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INTRODUCTION

The relationship between Attachment to places and Environmental images of “Self and Home” with special reference to Architect-designed Houses

Introduction:

The Relationship between Attachment to place and Environmental images of "Self and Home" with special reference to Architect Design Houses: A study using Environmental Autobiography.

INTRODUCTION

"Architecture is the process and the production of human habitation." Habraken (1983). These human habitations influence this process to make product of Architecture. It will be the once own approach to produced architecture. It is part of our Life; it begins with life, process of human behavior. That means person to person there ideas would be different. There would have individualism, particular social group, communities. According to habitation of that individual person or social group there living spaces would be different.

According to there individual life styles people have there own individual spaces. To his experience, emotion, memory, imagination there will be a particular place for him. Paul Shepard (1967: 32) suggests that for each individual "the organizing of thinking, perception and meaning is intimately related to specific place", and no doubt we all have private place to which we can retreat in order to meditate.

Most of us feel comfortable in some places or we attach to some places rather than others. Perhaps one of the simplest ways to define this spatial relationship we can state it as "attachment to place or image of place". Therefore attachment to place is a function of time and experiencing of a place is always a relative experience. Hence geometrical view and architectural view of a place is somewhat different from each other.

During the past years there has been a great deal of research which should help people to overcome the difficulties they have previously encountered in their efforts to understand the attachment, which will meet physiological, social and psychological needs. Therefore the previous phenomenon is identified by various aspects in different ways. "The places to which we are most attached are literally fields of care, settings in which we have had a multiplicity of experiences and which call forth an entire complex of affections and responses. But to care for a place involves more than having a concern for it that is based on certain past experiences and future expectations" Relph, E. (1976:38)

House, or more precisely the home, the central reference point of human existence; "Our home is our corner of the world it is our first universe, a real cosmos in every sense of the world" (Bachelard, 1969: 4). It is crystallization of once emotions, feelings and thinking for his individualism and feel much comfortable, he attach to that place rather other places. Perhaps one of the simples' ways to define this spatial relationship we can state it as "Attachment to place or image of place".

Because of that it is the Home, foundation of our identity as individuals as members of a community, the dwelling place of being home is not just the house you happen to live in, it is not something that can be anywhere, that can be exchanged, but an irreplaceable centre of significance, the center reference point of human existential space.

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Attachment to place is more noticeable in homes among individuals. For example it is interesting to note that some people attach to specific places within their homes rather than other places.

*" Brown leaves swim
Tender buds dance
I see breeze, gentle, cool
Calm and Quite
A heavenly feel lives with me.*

*How happy are monkey families
With little ones clinging to mother;
Swaying, rocking and enjoying
Themselves, feeding together.*

*How comfort this nature
Feed me, Lull me and cure me
That's the I always expecting
From my own niche."*

(P.Deraniyagala, Sunday Observer:Nov.17,02)

Like wise place attachment has a closer relationship with memories also. "It is the stabilization persistence of place as a container of experience that contributes so powerfully to its intrinsic memorability. An alert and alive memory connects spontaneously with place, finding in it features that favor and parallel its own activities, we might even say that memory is naturally place oriented or at least place supported". Casey.(1978:186-7).

Issues related to self and home with in attachment to place are many. People have written and talk about self and home. It is generally believed that home is the place where self can fall back on to, and to set the self free and let it manifest in the way one desires. But not many studies have done on this subject to understand the complexity of that issue when it is related to architect designed houses. Homes are made to the linking of the users, to suit their image, way of life style; to suit their social backgrounds etc... It seems that there are many facts to the issue of "home as a reflection of self". There is a greater need for a deeper understanding of this issue because when it comes to architect design houses there are many other circumstances which determine the close relationship of self and home.

As a result the issue of Attachment to place between self and home need examination, analysis and understanding of the manifestation of the user self, the architect and the other circumstances of design.

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Need of the Study

Despite the advancement of technology and the abundance of new materials or indeed because of it, the modern day architects have not exploited some of the greater potentials of architecture adequately. The need to cater for the need of Attachment to place among self and home their relationship no matter how complex they may be should be looked at without cynicism with vigor and proper advocating.

It seems that in today's life there is a growing awareness in self-development, self identity, personalization and self-harmony at home. Reflection of the user self in the design of home has become a fundamental part of the theories applied by the architects. As the dweller do not set direct involvement with home making any more there is a grater need for the architects to understand these complexities that exist in relationship of self and home as Attachment to individualized place.

"In homes we are all born. In homes we all die and hope to die. In homes we all live or want to live. For homes we are all labour; in them or circumference of the start and the finish of most human lives". (Sprangae, 1991:44).

One area that involved with house design can and should investigate in his or her own biases based on memories and images we all bring our past memories and images with us to house in own homes. These **memories** and **images** always keep us **attach to some places or not at all**. And also those **images** and **memories** keep us to **refuse places within our own home**. Further more it may continue to be so resulting in more disorderly, unlivable, meaningless, false products of Architecture. This is pathetic and also dangerous since architecture is a strong media through which deep and meaningful comfortable experiences can be presented to individuals.

And the most important fact is that the importance of attachment to place and critical connection it has to environmental images is not understood and sufficiently highlighted. It is therefore clear that there is a basic need of a study, which would observe, study highlight the importance of attachment to place among self and home in the context of Architecture.

"Architects have always claimed to design for people and thus to be interested in designing environments that can uplift the spirit and enhance the sense of well being. But most people are as stubborn or misguided as not to use the place and spaces architect designed either at all or in the wrong way." (Perin . C, 1970:65).

During the past years there has been a great deal of research which should help architect to overcome the difficulty they have previously encounter in their efforts to design a functional Architecture which will meet psychological, social and physiological



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need in architecture. This phenomenon is much remarkable in designing of personalized homes among individuals to meet his image of home.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of this study is to examine the notion of the attachment to place among self and home as a spatial quality related with creating architecture. As attachment to place as an idea has not been explored very often either in architectural literature or in practice. This study is geared towards emphasis its importance of application to architecture.

Since some ideas exist that attachment to place as a spatial quality related only with physical/geographical places. It is also an intention of this study to clarify attachment to place among self and home truly is. It is hoped that by such clarifications, its useful application will be explored and incorporated in places for people especially in more humane, domestic situations.

To study "attachment to place among self and home" in detail, in terms of its realistic application is another aim, so as to learn how the idea has been used to create places in which people experienced the quality of "attachment".

The main objective of this study is therefore to analyse the contribution of images to more specific spatial quality like attachment and to identify the potential of being places with attachment among self and home and other issue to achieve this, which are related to this spatial quality. The author hopes to analyse existing Architects design personalized homes of selected people in terms of attachment to place among self and home. Finally it is hoped to arrive at conclusive suggestions to most create successful places which are people attached in future endeavours.

Intention of the Study

The intention of the study is to examine the relationship between attachment to place and there by highlighting the importance of attachment to place among self and home. And obtain a clear understanding, that would enable the Architects to design individualized homes for people according to there environmental images.

Though the selected example, it intends to seek, the relationship between attachment to place happens according to once passed experiences, memories and future expectations to give final production of home, reflection of self. And how it will enables Architects to create successful designs which will be self attached of the client, design personalized homes.

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Method of Study

Environmental autobiographies were used as a tool to analyse attachment to place among self and home, in their most positive state would be looked at as an attempt to identify the existence of spatial quality within personalized "homes" which were designed by Architects and how they have come into being.

Furthermore, that all autobiographies may not be identified to the same intensity in any specific issue, examples would thus be selected based on the most overriding characteristics observable within any selected situation for example as in either local or foreign situations. Each selected example would be further examined under the five categories of attachment to places. An attempt would be made to establish specific patterns in their existence and in characteristics to each other in attachment to places.

It is intended to do this research using an environmental autobiography as a method. Environmental autobiography contains writing the story of one's own life relating to living environment. Environmental autobiographies also contain a series of questions and are based on personal experiences and feelings.

Distinguish characteristic of environmental autobiography method.

1. The main purpose of this method is to describe an experience from the participants' point of view.
2. The method should be focused on individuals.
3. The method of data collecting is based on in-depth structured questionnaires.
4. The purposeful sample should be two or three individuals from each architect.
5. The method of data analysis is based on meaning-oriented and hopes to search for themes, patterns and connections across participants' reactions.
6. It is hoped to communicate findings through use of literature. (Including sketches).

The method of analyzing it will be like follows.

1. It is intended to collect participants' environmental autobiographies related to childhood and present separately.
2. Check one by one whether all necessary data reported or not. If not, identify what is needed and that information could be collected through participants' interviews.
3. By doing this, analysed data could be used to formulate conclusions and hypothesis for the research design.

The basic structure of the questionnaire is shown in Appendix at the end of this dissertation.

As the methodology suggests a basic hypothesis is important in understanding what attachment to place implies to. The basic hypothesis for the research design is past memories of our childhood homes play an important role in creating future images of our dream homes. Those memories keep us attached to specific places in homes or refused

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some places in our home. And also those images are modified by the various influencing factors such as culture, society, gender, age, profession and economy etc...

Scope and Limitations

The scope of this dissertation is to study this spatial quality and its existence as an attribute of a place. Examples and analysis carried out within the study are to emphasize its relevant application. A study of this nature can be extensive in its capacity being based on qualitative aspects. Therefore the degree to which the matter is explored has to be limited.

The "attachment to place" among self and home in its intangible quality is best understood by a theoretical background. An in depth study of the notion and its Components were carried out; where it was brought forward as more tangible, cohesive experience of place. Yet it can not be fully fledged, as a quality of a place unless it was made understood by relevance and application in realistic terms.

The study is limited to examining mainly a small number of situations in the local context. In terms of the possible application of "attachment to place" among "self and home" as a spatial quality areas had to be selected in accordance with its relevance. The most successful use of attachment to place was selected as source of knowledge for application in the neediest areas.

This study is focused especially on selected Architects design houses to establish the relationship between attachment to place among self and home. Examine only on single person involvement in a home as owner of the house and contribution of design architect. And the theoretical ideologies will be used based on available literature.

Public places were considered a good examples of successful application of the notion of place but personalized home were selected as they are the most sensuous area where the idea is most crystallized and for the purpose of limiting the study.